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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/758,386	01/15/2004	Memphis-Zhihong Yin	200312164-1	5428

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EXAMINER

WRIGHT, INGRID D

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2835

DATE MAILED: 03/24/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/758,386

Applicant(s)

YIN ET AL.

Examiner

Ingrid Wright

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 December 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 1/15/04 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 1 & 3 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention.

With respect to claim 1, the claim recites: "a remote side of the multiple-connector apparatus is flush with the side wall." The multiple-connector (128) is not flush with sidewall (126), as the multiple connector (126) appears to protrude out of sidewall (126). A disclosure on how the multiple-connector (128) is flush with the side wall (126) is missing. This further appears to be new matter not supported by the specification

With respect to claim 3, the limitations, "when in an extended position, and having a remote side that is flush with the sidewall when in an retracted position," is not discussed in the Applicant's specification nor illustrated in the Applicant's figures. This further appears to be new matter not supported by the specification.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

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2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Glad US

6863554 B1.

With respect to claim 1, Glad teaches (Fig. 1) a computer system (8), comprising a sidewall (not labeled) having an aperture (not labeled) therethrough and a multiple-connector apparatus (151, embodiment in Figs. 6 & 7, for example) disposed to pass at least partially through the aperture (not labeled), able to be positioned in a retracted position to conceal at least one of the connectors (154) inside the computer system (8) and in an extended position in which at least one of the connectors (154) is accessible outside of the computer system (8), a remote side (see, lateral wall near 118) of the multi-connector apparatus is flush with a sidewall, in the same manner that the side is flush in the instant application. It is noted that the Applicant's invention does not show flush, but slightly protruding from the sidewall. This structural limitation is met Glad.

With respect to claim 2, Glad teaches (Fig. 6,7) a push-push mechanism (158) facilitating movement of the multiple-connector apparatus (151).

With respect to claim 3, Glad teaches (Fig. 1) a computer system (8) comprising a housing (not labeled) having a top side (not labeled) and a sidewall (not labeled) and a port connector

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apparatus (151, Fig. 6,7), having a plurality of port connectors (154) arranged in a plane substantially parallel to the top side and adapted to receive mating connectors (10) in a direction substantially parallel to the sidewall (not labeled), when in an extended position, and having a remote side that is flush with the sidewall when in a retracted position, in the same manner that the side flush in the instant application. It is noted that the Applicant's invention does not show flush, but slightly protruding from the sidewall. This structural limitation is met by Glad.

With respect to claim 4, Glad teaches (Fig. 6,7) the sidewall (not labeled), which has an aperture (not labeled) and the port connector apparatus (151), which includes an extension/retraction mechanism (158) that enables the port connector apparatus (151) to be extended and retracted through the aperture (not labeled).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 5-7 & 11-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Glad US 6863554 B1 in view of Chen et al. US 6093038.

With respect to claim 5, Glad teaches (Fig. 6,7) a housing (not labeled) means having an aperture (not labeled) and a means for changing a total number of port connectors (154) exposed outside of the housing means and wherein the changing means enables a plurality of

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the port connectors (154) to move back and forth through the aperture (not labeled).

Glad is silent as to a changing means being not fully detachable from the housing means.

Chen et al. teaches a changing means (10), which is not fully detachable from the housing means (see back opening on case (20)), where by electrical connector (101) on the changing means is electrically connected to a main board (202) via wires (30).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize the changing means of Chen et al. in the invention of Glad, in order to provide an electrical connection for peripherals connected to a notebook or desktop computer, col. 2, lines 23-46 of Chen et al.).

With respect to claim 6, Glad teaches (Fig. 6) a means for holding the port connectors (154) in a retracted position relative to the housing (not labeled) and a means for releasing the port connectors (154) from the retracted position relative to the housing.

With respect to claim 7, Glad teaches (Fig. 6,7) a housing (not labeled) and a connector tray (151) connected to the housing (not labeled) and having a plurality of port connectors (154) and wherein more port connectors (154) are accessible when the connector tray (151) is extended at least partially outside the housing than when the tray (151) is retracted within the housing.

Glad is silent as to the connector tray being non-removable from the housing.

Chen et al. teaches (see, fig. 5) a non-removable connector tray (10).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize the changing means of Chen et al. in the invention of Glad, in order to provide an electrical connection for peripheral devices connected to a notebook or desktop computer, col. 2, lines 23-46 of Chen et al.).

Regarding the method claims 11-13, the method steps recited in the claims are inherently necessitated by the device structure as taught by Glad. & Chen et al. Glad disclosed (fig. 6,7) a computer system (8) with a multiple-connector tray (151) with first and second portions in a retracted position relative to a housing of the computer system, the multiple-connector tray (151) having at least one connector (154) in the second portion inaccessible in the retracted position; extending the multiple-connector tray (151) to an extended position relative to the housing to expose the second portion and pivoting the second portion relative to the first portion to render the connector (154) is accessible.

With respect to claim 14, Glad teaches (Fig. 4,5) a retractable multiple-connector apparatus, (131) or multiple-connector apparatus (181, Fig. 10,11).

Glad is silent as to the connector tray being non-removable from the housing.

Chen et al. teaches (see, fig. 5) a non-removable connector tray (10).

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It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention to utilize the connector tray of Chen et al. in the invention of Glad, in order to provide a user friendly connector board for a notebook or desktop computer, by allowing a user to easily connect peripheral devices to a computer and thereby increase the convenience of usage of the computer (see, col. 3, lines 1-5 of Chen et al.).

With respect to claim 15, Glad teaches (Fig. 4,5) the retractable multiple-connector apparatus (131) is integrated with housing (130).

With respect to claim 16, the multiple-connector apparatus retracts entirely into the computer system (8).

With respect to claim 17, Glad teaches (Fig. 4,5) a housing (130) wherein the retractable multiple-connector apparatus (131) retracts within the housing (not labeled) to a position at which a remote side of the retractable multiple-connector apparatus is flush with a wall of the housing.

4. Claims 8-10 & 18-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Glad US 6863554 B1 in view Chen et al. US 6093038.

With respect to claim 8, Glad teaches (Fig. 6,7) a connector tray (151) and a portion (186) pivotably connected, a plurality of port connectors (154) disposed in the second portion of the connector tray (151) and an extension/retraction mechanism (158) that locks the first and second portions in a retracted position until released therefrom and enables the released first

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and second portion to extend to an extended position at which the second portion can pivot relative to the first portion.

If the second portion of Glad is not pivotable to the first portion, Chen et al. teaches (see, fig. 2) a second portion that is pivotable to a first portion.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to connect a second portion of Chen et al. in the invention of Glad, in order to provide a movable connector board which can enable a user to easily connect or disconnect peripheral devices without rotating or moving the computer.

With respect to claim 9, Glad teaches (Fig. 6,7) the extension/retraction mechanism (158) comprises a push-push mechanism.

With respect to claim 10, Glad teaches (Fig. 6,7) an extension/retraction mechanism (158).

Glad teaches in an alternate embodiment (Fig. 19C) a button (316) that causes the release of a retractable block (320), stored with a communications card, from a retracted position (col. 18, lines 33-36).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize a button in the embodiment of Fig. 19c over the retractable release mechanism of the embodiment of Fig. 6,7, in order to provide automatic release of a multiple connector apparatus from a retracted position. The replacement of one release mechanism for an

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alternate equivalent release mechanism would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art.

With respect to claim 18, Glad teaches (Fig. 10,11) a housing (180) and the retractable multiple-connector apparatus that comprises a portion (186) that pivots relative to the housing upon being extended from the housing (180) (col. 12, lines 22-28).

If the second portion of Glad is not pivotable to the first portion, Chen et al. teaches (see, fig. 2) a second portion that is pivotable to a first portion.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to connect a second portion of Chen et al. in the invention of Glad, in order to provide a movable connector board which can enable a user to easily connect or disconnect peripheral devices without rotating or moving the computer.

With respect to claim 19, Glad teaches (Fig. 10,11) the portion (186) of the retractable multiple-connector apparatus that pivots to an extended rather than a vertical position, relative to the housing (not labeled).

Glad is silent as to a second portion that pivots to a vertical position.

Chen et al. teaches a second portion that pivots to a vertical position.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to connect a second portion of Chen et al. in the invention of Glad, in order to provide a movable connector board which can be enable a user to easily connect or disconnect peripheral devices without rotating or moving the computer.

With respect to claim 20, Glad teaches (Fig. 6,7) the retractable multiple-connector apparatus further comprises a plurality of connectors (154) accessible from a side away from the housing (not labeled) of the computer system (8).

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments filed on 12/20/2005, have been fully considered but are moot in view of the new ground (s) of rejection.

In response to the Applicant's argument, regarding "a remote side of multi-connector being flush with a sidewall," flush is new matter not supported by the disclosure. Applicant shows multi-connector slightly protruding with a sidewall and this limitation is met by the prior art reference as described in the above rejection.

In response to the Applicant's argument regarding receptacle modules being removable and detachable, Chen et al. teaches a receptacle module (10), which that is not fully removable or detachable (see, fig. 5 of Chen et al).

In response to the Applicant's argument regarding a portion of a tray that is able to pivot relative to a portion that is able to be position in a retracted and extended position, Chen et al. teaches a second portion of a tray (10) that is pivotable.

Conclusion

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6. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ingrid Wright whose telephone number is (571)272-8392. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynn Feild can be reached on (571)272-2800, ext 35. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



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